

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, YO

SUBJ: VISIT OF STAG DENNIS SMITH

REF :STATE 118343

1. ON HIS RECENT THREE DAY VISIT TO BELGRADE, AUTHOR DENNIS SMITH PROVED ARTICULATE SPOESMAN FOR AMERICAN LITERATURE IN ENERAL AND FOR NEW GROUP OF BLUE COLLAR WRITERS WHOM HE SO ABLY REPRESENTS. HIS PRESENTATIONS HERE, ESPECIALLY BEFORE ASSOCIATION OF YUGOSLAV WRITERS, GENERATED LIVELY DISCUSSIONS ON THEMES SUCH AS THE ROLE OF THE WRITER IN SOCIETY; SOURCES OF BLUE COLLAR TRADITION IN AMERICAN LITERATURE; AND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BLUE COLLAR AND PROLETARIAN WORKERS, A DISTINCION IT WAS NOT ALWAYS EASY FOR HIS AUDIENCE TO MAKE. ONE WHO DID WAS IVAN LALIC, SECRETARY GENERAL OF INFLUENTIAL LEAGUE OF YUGOSLAV WRITERS WHO PRAISED SMITH FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF HIS LITERARY STYLE AND CRAFTSMANSHIP AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SERBO-CROATIAN VERSION OF REPORT FROM ENGINE CO. 82 WOULD SOON APPEAR IN YUGOSLAVIA.

2. SMITH WAS MOST EFFECTIVE IN SMALL INFORMAL MEETINGS WHICH HE ALSO SEEMED TO PREFER TO THE LARGER, MORE FORMAL LECUTRE-TYPE PRESENTATIONS. HE RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS WITH A NATURALNESS AND THOUGHTFULNESS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE RAPPORT HE QUICKLY ESTABLISHED WITH IS LISTENERS. HE IMPRESSED AUDIENCES WITH HIS SINCERITY, EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE

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OF LITERATURE, AND HIS OBVIOUS SUCCESS AT COMBINING TWO

COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AND SEEMINGLY INCONGRUOUS CAREERS
WITH EQUAL DISTINCTION.

3. POST RATES HIS SHORT VISIT AN IMPORTANT, ALBEIT LOW KEY
SUCCESS. SMITH REPRESENTS A NEW DIMENSION IN AMERICAN
LITERATURE NOT WIDELY KNOWN IN YUGOSLAVIA, BUT WHICH, THNAKS
TO HIS PRESUASIVE AND WELL-REASONED PRESENTATION IS NOW
BETTER UNDERSTOOD BY LOCAL WRITERS AND CRITICS WHOM HE HAD
A CHANCE TO MEET. HIS VISIT CONTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO
ACCOMPLISHMENT OF CPM OBJECTIVES II AND V.

4. INTERVIEWS WITH SMITH APPEARED IN BELGRADE DAILY
"BORBA" AND WEEKLY LITERARY MAGAZINE "KNJIZEVNE NOVINE"
AND COPIES WILL FORWARDED SEPARTELY.
SILBERMAN

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